

S-420

c. 1850

Judge Levin T.H. Irving House  
(St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Rectory)  
Princess Anne  
Private

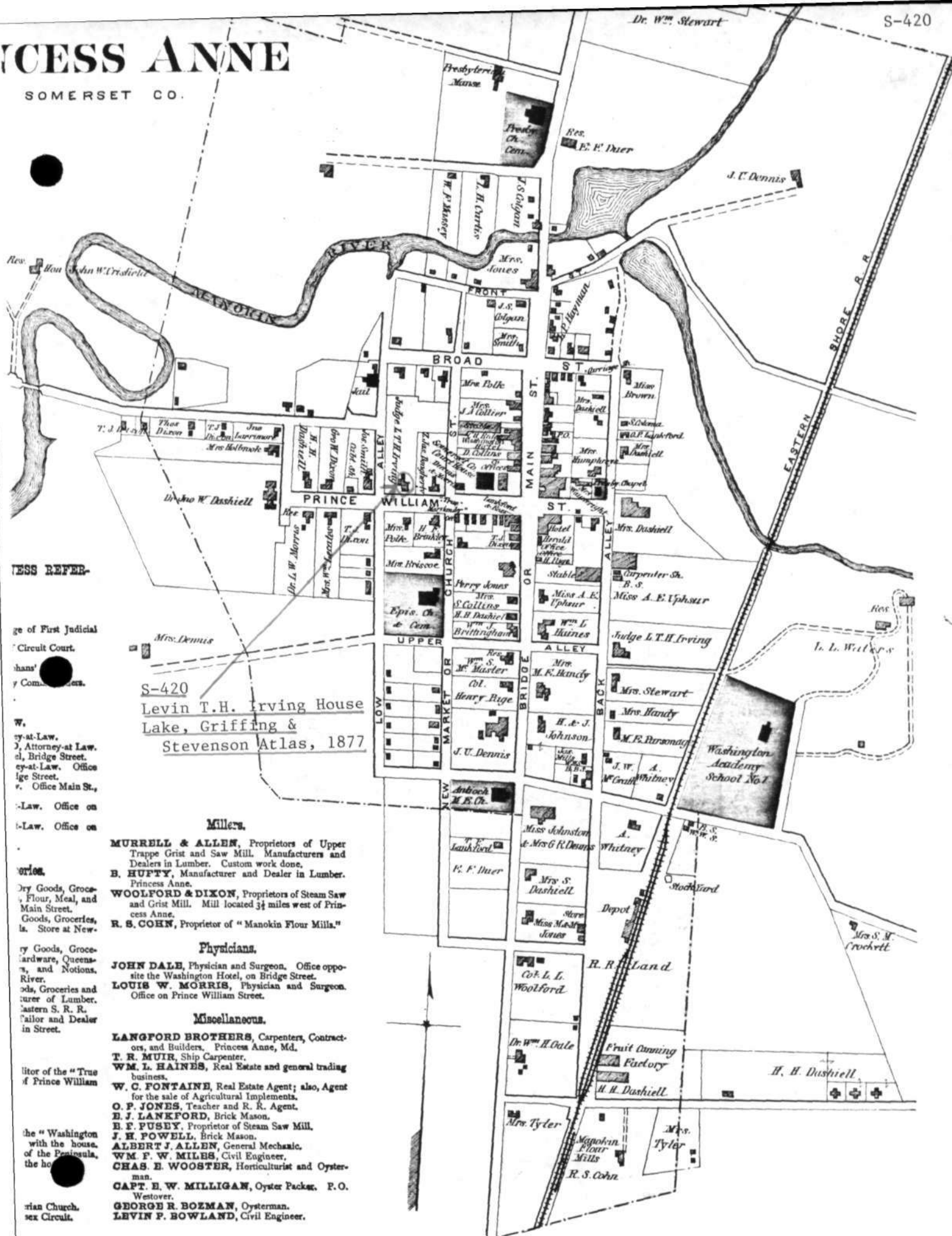
Known by most Princess Anne residents as the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Rectory, this two-and-a-half story, side hall/double-pile frame house is the former home of Judge Levin T.H. Irving, a prominent town attorney and judge who served in Somerset County court during the late nineteenth century. He is designated as the owner of this corner property on the Princess Anne map in the 1877 county atlas.

At the time of the atlas's publication, the house contained three distinct parts, two of which remain on the property today. The third part, a rear service wing, was moved a short distance and attached to another building on Beckford Avenue. The front section is distinctive for its gable-front elevation, Gothic pointed pilaster panels, and ashlar-style treatment in wood under the stair balustrade. As with a handful of other houses in Princess Anne, this peculiar stair construction points to the work of carpenter Seth D. Venables, who evidently erected this house around 1850.

# CESS ANNE

SOMERSET CO.

S-420



## LESS REFER-

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Circuit Court.

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W.  
y-at-Law.  
J. Attorney-at Law.  
el, Bridge Street.  
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r. Office Main St.,

-Law. Office on

-Law. Office on

## erice.

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Eastern S. R. R.  
Tailor and Dealer  
in Street.

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Levin T.H. Irving House  
Lake, Griffing &  
Stevenson Atlas, 1877

## Millers.

**MURRELL & ALLEN**, Proprietors of Upper  
Trappe Grist and Saw Mill. Manufacturers and  
Dealers in Lumber. Custom work done.  
**B. HUPPY**, Manufacturer and Dealer in Lumber.  
Princess Anne.  
**WOOLFORD & DIXON**, Proprietors of Steam Saw  
and Grist Mill. Mill located 3 1/2 miles west of Prin-  
cess Anne.  
**R. S. COHN**, Proprietor of "Manokin Flour Mills."

## Physicians.

**JOHN DALE**, Physician and Surgeon. Office oppo-  
site the Washington Hotel, on Bridge Street.  
**LOUIS W. MORRIS**, Physician and Surgeon.  
Office on Prince William Street.

## Miscellaneous.

**LANGFORD BROTHERS**, Carpenters, Contract-  
ors, and Builders. Princess Anne, Md.  
**T. R. MUIR**, Ship Carpenter.  
**WM. L. HAINES**, Real Estate and general trading  
business.  
**W. C. FONTAINE**, Real Estate Agent; also, Agent  
for the sale of Agricultural Implements.  
**O. P. JONES**, Teacher and R. R. Agent.  
**E. J. LANKFORD**, Brick Mason.  
**H. F. FUSEY**, Proprietor of Steam Saw Mill.  
**J. E. POWELL**, Brick Mason.  
**ALBERT J. ALLEN**, General Mechanic.  
**WM. F. W. MILLS**, Civil Engineer.  
**CHAS. E. WOOSTER**, Horticulturist and Oyster-  
man.  
**CAPT. E. W. MILLIGAN**, Oyster Packag. P. O.  
Westover.  
**GEORGE R. BOZMAN**, Oysterman.  
**LEVIN P. BOWLAND**, Civil Engineer.

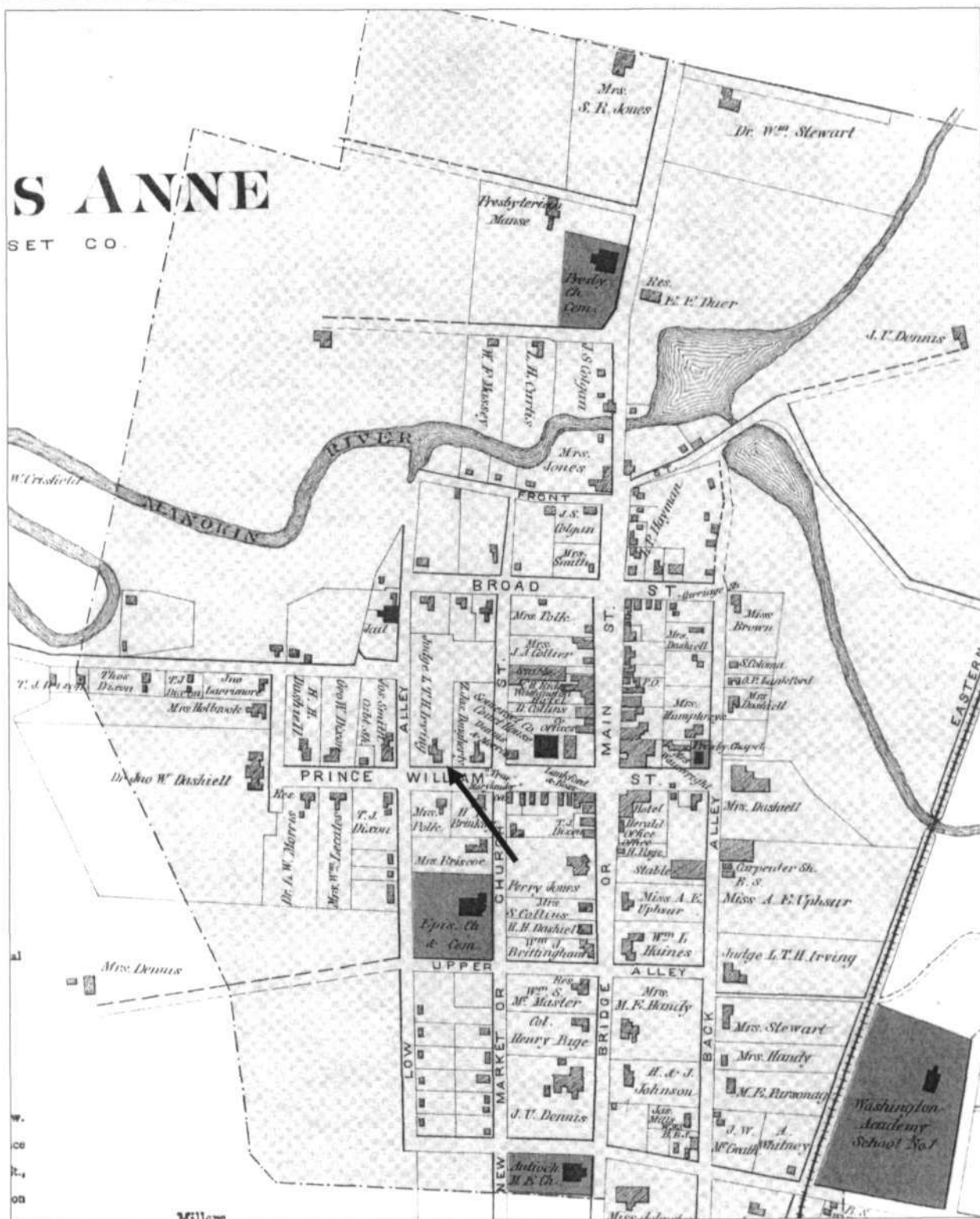
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Judge Levin T.H. Irving House

30480 Prince William Street, Princess Anne

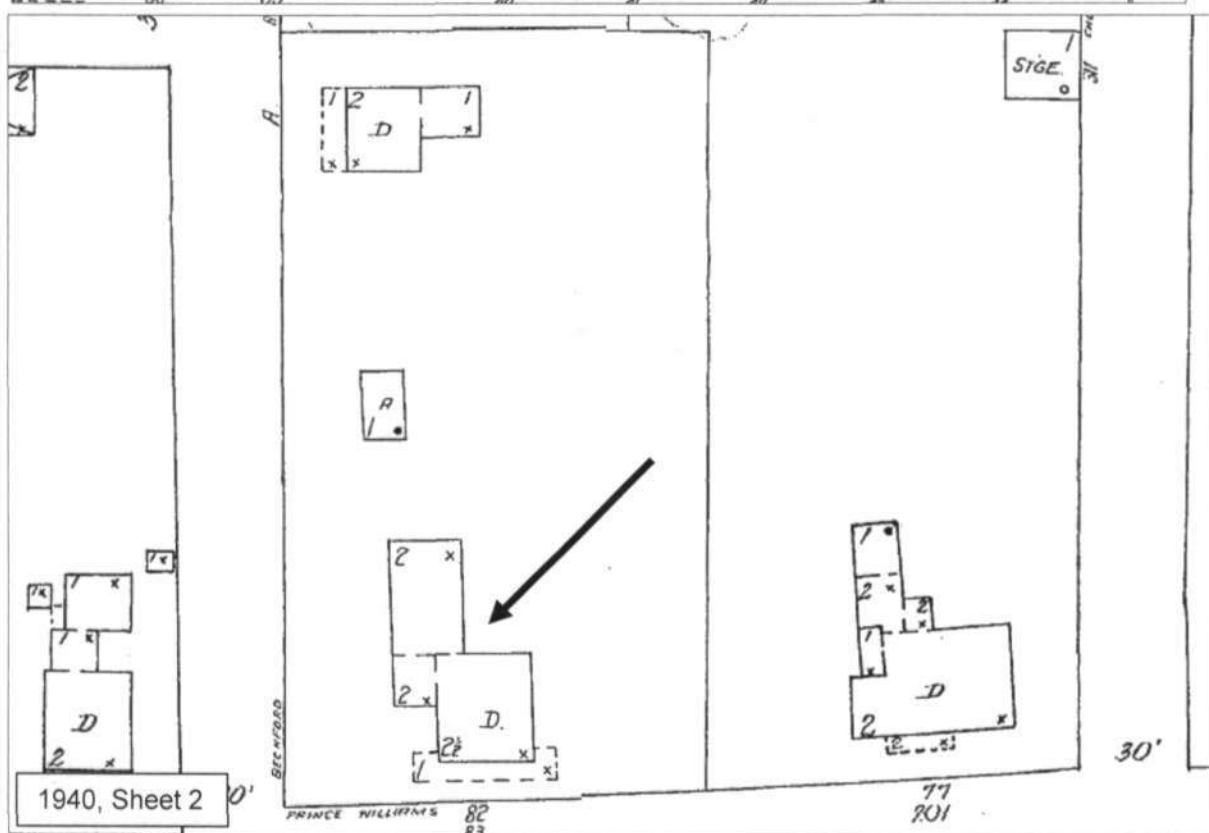
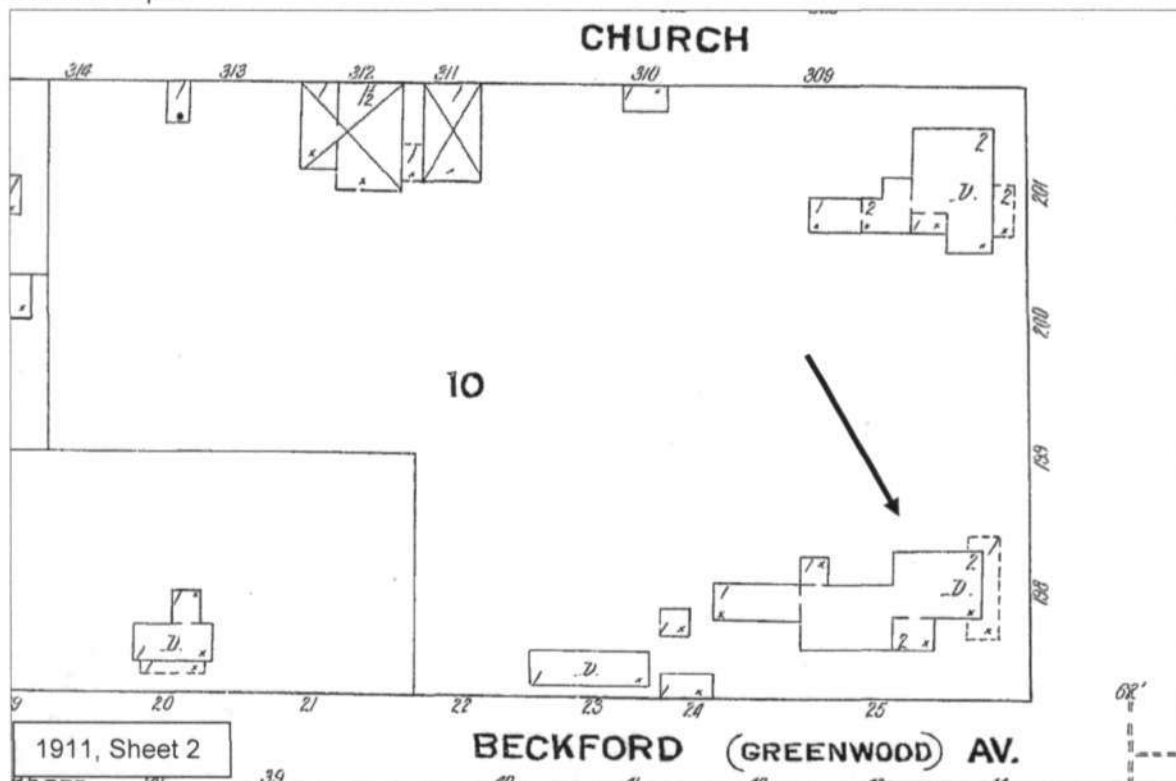
Lake, Griffing & Stevenson (1877) Atlas of Wicomico, Worcester, & Somerset Counties, Maryland.

Princess Anne detail



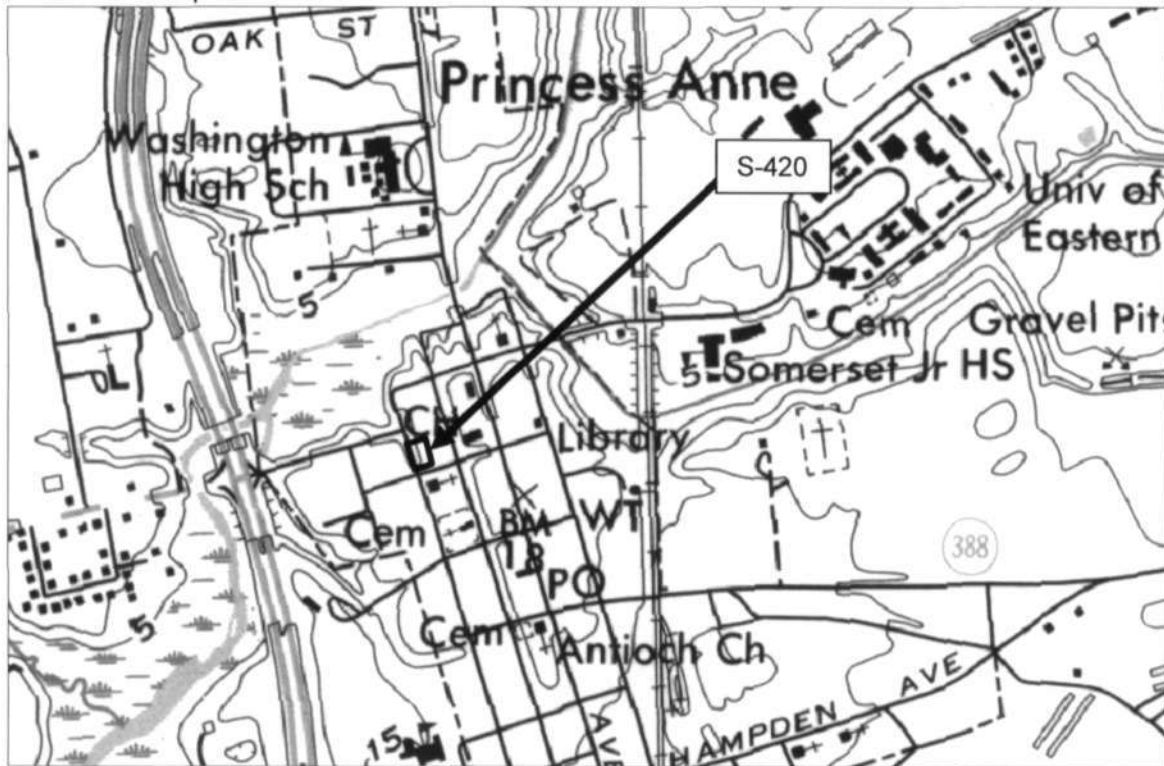
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Judge Levin T.H. Irving House  
30480 Prince William Street, Princess Anne  
Sanborn Maps



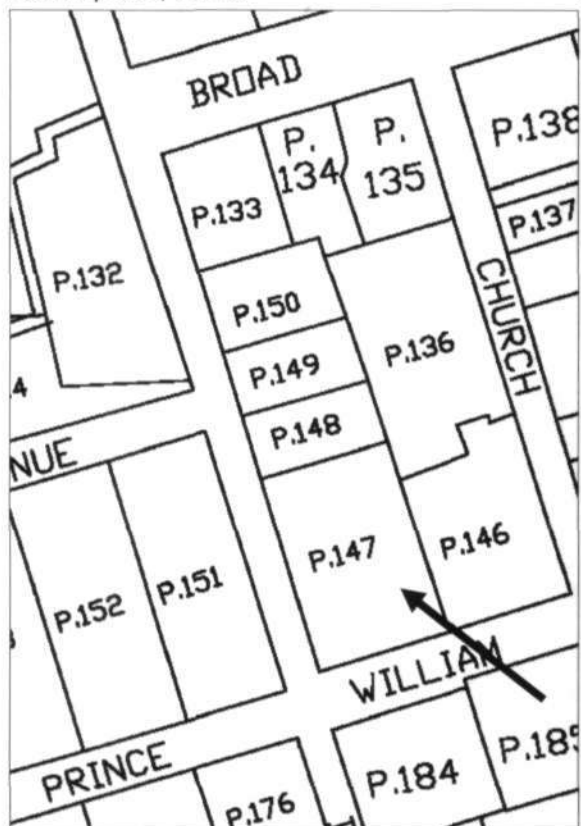
S-420

Judge Levin T.H. Irving House  
30480 Prince William Street, Princess Anne  
Princess Anne quad 1972



Tax Map 202, P. 147

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010





S-383, John W. Crisfield house, photograph c. 1915 (courtesy of Mrs. Clarence Leckey).

tably it cannot be said for certain if the living room section of the Crisfield house is Cheney's original house or another dwelling he erected after purchasing the sections of Lot 25. Before his death in February 1790, Cheney transferred Lot 25 to his son Francis Tubman

Cheney. Doctor Francis Cheney was assessed for the lot in 1798, at which time it was improved with "1 Dwelling House 30 by 24 wood one story."

A half-century later, in December 1851, John Woodland Crisfield purchased Lot 30

from William W. Johnston and financed the construction of a finely crafted two-and-a-half story frame house fronting Main Street. The Honorable John W. Crisfield occupied this house until his bankruptcy in 1876, when the property was sold to Anna L. Haines and Crisfield retired to his farm, Edge Hill.

Recent renovations to the former rear wing of the main house indicate it was built for Crisfield in 1858 by Princess Anne carpenter John Miller. In 1909 S. Frank Dashiell purchased the property from Anna L. Haines, and twenty years later the Dashiells moved the main section of the house to the lot behind this addition. It was at this time that the old Cheney house, by then converted to a storage building, was moved up to the relocated main house.



S-420, Levin T. H. Irving House, southwest elevation.

#### JUDGE LEVIN T. H. IRVING HOUSE

Circa 1850

Princess Anne

Private

Known by most Princess Anne residents as the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church rectory, this two-and-a-half story, side hall/double-pile frame house is the former home of Judge

Levin T. H. Irving, a prominent town attorney and judge who served in Somerset County court during the late nineteenth century. He is designated as the owner of this corner property on the Princess Anne map in the 1877 county atlas.

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#### FONTAINE-FITZGERALD HOUSE

Circa 1852  
Princess Anne  
Private

Upon division of Littleton Dennis Teackle's estate by the Newman family trustees, "Lot Number One" was sold to William Lecates. The deed, executed in July 1852, mentions that Lecates was residing at the time of the transfer in the neighboring estate tenement. Architectural evidence suggests Lecates engaged in a building program that financed the construction of this two-story, center hall frame house soon after he purchased the lot. He chose a well-known vernacular house form and had it trimmed with popular mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival features. Because of its traditional form, the house is often mistaken as an earlier dwelling.

The Lecates house is a remarkable survival from the mid-nineteenth century with close to 100 percent of its original finishes intact. Most notable on the exterior is the



S-6, Fontaine-Fitzgerald house, northeast elevation.

fine two-story pedimented porch supported by square paneled columns. The second floor porch survives with a cross-pattern stick hand-rail. Common to the Greek Revival period are the sidelighted entrances framed with a simple but bold paneled surround. The exterior is clad with consistent layers of beveled edge weatherboards, a type of siding found on the neighboring Francis Barnes house and other mid-nineteenth century structures.

The pristine exterior is complemented by an intact nineteenth century interior finished with Greek Revival style mantels and a highly unusual period stair. The triangular area below the stringer of the stair was rusticated in an effort to imitate large blocks, a trademark treatment of Princess Anne builder Seth Venables. The two-story service wing is as well-preserved as the main house. A large cooking fireplace remains in the kitchen, and period hardware survives on many of the four-panel doors.

The Lecates family owned the Prince William Street property until the 1880s, when William Lecates's heirs sold the house to Charles W. Fontaine. Fontaine occupied the house from his purchase on May 6, 1887, until his death in 1915. He willed the property to his cousin, Nannie C. Fontaine, for her lifetime. At her death the house and lot were transferred to Laura P. and George B. Fitzgerald in 1932.

#### SETH D. VENABLES HOUSE

1852  
Princess Anne  
Private

The history of the Seth D. Venables house (also known as the Maria L. Holbrook house) illustrates the often undocumented process of house financing and construction. Built in 1852 by house carpenter Seth D. Venables, this two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling follows a traditional vernacular house form and is trimmed with modest mid-nineteenth century woodwork. The frame house is covered with the same beveled edge weatherboards found on nearby houses, and the four-panel front door is topped with a bracketed lintel. The traditional finish of this vernacular house is similar to that of the slightly larger Fontaine-Fitzgerald house, which was built during the same decade. Attached to the back of the main dwelling is a two-story service wing.

The specific construction agreement for this house was written in a mortgage between Seth D. Venables and Francis Barnes on December 31, 1852. The mortgage states, "whereas the said Francis Barnes has advanced and loaned to the said Seth D. Venables sundry sums of money to enable the said Seth D. Venables to improve the said lot by erecting buildings thereon which said advances amount to the sum of one hundred and sixty five dollars and fifty cents...." In re-